

[Danbury Museum hits a home run](#)

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The Danbury Museum and Historical Society may have had its share of difficulties in the past year, but officials with the organization packed the house last weekend during a presentation on the little known witch trials of Connecticut.

Last year several key museum officials were handed an indefinite furlough because the nonprofit organization was running out of funds to pay for their salaries. The situation was resolved after city officials offered to provide the organization's annual allocation from the city budget, about \$70,000 in a lump sum rather than in quarterly payments. The employees returned back to work last July.

Then in December it was announced that the annual Mayor's Ball, which in past years has raised as much as \$50,000 for the museum, would be cancelled. Boughton said at the time that the affair had become too cumbersome and took too much of his staff's time to organize the event.

But that seemed a distant memory last weekend when more than 125 people attended the presentation on witch trials – a one woman show masterfully performed by Virginia Wolf of Her Theater LLC.

The museum was filled with area residents, both young and old, who were mesmerized by Wolf's performance. Extra chairs had to be brought in as people continued to show up even after the performance began.

Wolf took on the persona of five women who were accused of witchcraft in the state during the 17th century.

According to Wolf, at least 40 alleged witches were tried in Connecticut, many of whom decades before the famed Salem witch trials, and at least 10 were hanged.

The presentation was part of an ongoing "Locally Grown" series now running at the museum that's being sponsored by the Savings Bank of Danbury.

As part of the series, Bethel author Dan Cruson will present his new book 'Putnam's Revolutionary War Winter Encampment: The History & Archaeology of Putnam Memorial State Park' on March 31.

On April 18th, the Wolf Conservation Center of South Salem, NY will be bringing a special visitor to the museum - Atka – a nine year old Arctic Gray Wolf for an educational program.

These and other programs being held at the museum in the coming month as part of the series are free and open to the public. Donations are always appreciated but aren't required.

The programing itself may not relieve the museum of its financial concerns, but introducing the organization to a wider audience certainly isn't going to hurt.

And to see a packed house last weekend is certainly a good sign.